

Title: Glories of God

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 5/12/24

I want to encourage this house. Years ago we had a Psalmist Prophetic Conference. Does anyone remember that? It has been a long time. This house has been asked to host the psalmist prophetic ministry. David, the king in Jerusalem, learned at a young age that God loves music. Moses did not set up music in the House of the Lord, but David did. He found out about the heart of God. It was a revelation to him, and it might be a revelation to you about how much God loves music, song, dance and the arts. Holy Spirit moved upon David to set up as a part of the priesthood, priests that would sing, dance, and play songs all day and all night unto the Lord. It became a part of their service as an addendum to all that they did.

That is on the church. It is not just flags and instruments. You can join in by encountering the presence in prose, poetry, writing, and in the arts of painting and drawing. He will show you. It can be an act of worship to give your gifts and talents unto the Lord in His presence. Prayer and intercession is a part of the psalmist prophetic ministry, in that you are in the throne room of Heaven with us, and God is asking you to pray specifically for something now. That might mean that you are on your knees here upfront or in your row. That might mean you go to another room to pray. But, that is part of how the Spirit moves among the body in the psalmist prophetic ministry. Psalmist as in music, and prophetic as in the voice of the Lord displaying His heart and teaching His heart. On our nights of "Just A Sound," that is all we are doing. "Just A Sound," was the song that the Lord released to us in 2013/2014. It is about "just hearing a sound."

Kevin did a good job recently when he taught a class on Kim Clement, a forerunner in the psalmist prophetic ministry. His testimony was that at a young age, "he heard a sound, and could not stop hearing the sound, that was not of this world. He had to release that sound." The Lord had taught us that before I even heard the testimony of Kim Clement, but he was a father of the faith in this house. You can prophesy God's heart through music. You can prophesy God's thoughts through sound. You can prophesy God's heart through art, sculpture, writing, poetry or painting.

You are called in this body to steward those gifts. It is part of the comparison that we can get into, thinking, "I am not as good as they are at flagging, or blowing the shofar, or dancing." But, maybe the Lord is drawing out of you, that you hear His voice another way. It is a part of worship. Now, we can't all just get in our own bubbles, saying, "This is me and this is you," but, "we are as one body, being joined and knit together." The Lord will give you things as you ask Him. Okay, "God, how does this fit for your family today? It is not about me. It is about you, and your glory advancing."

He says, "Whatever I have freely given to you, freely give." Don't just keep what God gives you. Give it away. We just gave our tithes and offerings to the Lord that He requires of us. What do you think God is going to do with what have we freely given to Him? He is going to give it away. That is His nature. Whatever is freely given to Him, He freely gives. We are His children. He says, "*In the same way, be like your Father, who gives freely to the just and the unjust. Be generous in your heart. Be cheerful in what you do.*" This is worship. This is the psalmist prophetic ministry that this House is called to carry. What it looks like is an overflow of the arts of God. He created the arts. He created the fine arts. He created those things as a means of worship for you to express your soul and your heart to Him. We will sing with all that we have.

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One time a lady came up here, and she had written a poem that morning. I do not know if you remember it. She came up and loosed that poem. It was just like worship unto the Lord. That is a part of this house. That is a part of the ministry of the the Lord, that He gives you. Right? *In scripture*, there is a woman that comes before Jesus and pours out what she had. We count it unto her as righteousness. All that she had was perfume. What if it was money? What if it was a newly woven curtain? What if she poured out something that wasn't just perfume? We would consider it righteousness unto her, because of her spirit and the attitude of her heart. She is saying, "All I have and all that I am is yours." That is what it looks like.

The Lord is there, "Jehovah Shammah." That is what He has been teaching us. There are levels of the glory of the Lord. We see it very obviously in Exodus.

Exodus 13:20-22 ESV

"And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they may travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people."

It stayed with them and lead them until they crossed over Jordan and came into the promised land. Imagine every day you go to your car, and there is a pillar of cloud right there in your driveway. You get in your car and you follow that pillar of cloud, wherever it goes. That is where you stay. Then at night, you have a nightlight, because it turns into a pillar of fire. This is the life that the Israelites lived for forty years, day and night. They had an encounter with the glory of God. A manifestation of His presence as the Guide, as the Shepherd, as the Vision, as the Leader, and as the Commander. As the Father, who is not going to leave us, He is always there. You get up in the middle of the night, and He is still there. His light shines upon us in the night. His presence leads us in the day. This is an amazing thing to think of. They can see *His presence*.

We know that they were going fast in the day and in the night, because they are trying to get away at this point from the Egyptians. They had just come out of Egypt. The very next chapter is about them coming to the Red Sea. This same pillar of cloud and pillar of a fire expands itself and comes around the entire encampment of the Israelites. It becomes a wall of fire between them and the Egyptians. The front guard of God, then became the rear guard. Separating the Egyptians from the Israelites, so that no wrath could come and hit them. The Red Sea split open into dry land, and they could walk upon it. We think of this as, "Wow, I would love to see this."

That is not the only way that God came in His glory. I want you to understand, these are the same people that are about to do something atrocious to God. We are going to stay in Exodus and see the different ways that God's glory comes upon the Israelites. So, they have a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire that is constantly there. They can constantly see and are in God's presence. Take that into consideration as we read. They have already crossed the Red Sea, and the Egyptians with their chariots have been overthrown, tossed and killed. Now the people of Israel are on their way to Mount Sinai.

Exodus 19:1-4 ESV

"On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have

seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."

Wait a minute. Wait, what? He brought them to Himself? Then what is the cloud? What have they been walking with this whole time if now they found God? Do you understand what I'm saying here? They have been following God, and He says, "Now, I have led you to myself." There is another encounter with God coming. There is a greater glory. There is a greater presence. There is a greater revelation. There is a greater understanding. There is, if you would, at this moment, a pillar of cloud on the bottom of the mountain. Yet, God is calling to Moses on top of the mountain, to "come up here." Very interesting, right? You say, "wait a minute, how can that happen?" God is omnipresent. God is omnipotent. You can see His triune essence already here on Mount Sinai. Yes, it is awesome.

Exodus 19:5-6 ESV

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the Earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

He said that just to Moses. Moses went up the mountain and He talked to him.

Exodus 19:7-8 ESV

"So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, 'All that the Lord has spoken, we will do.' And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord."

Moses is going up and down the mountain. This is only the second time. He is going to do it a lot in this story.

Exodus 19:9 ESV

"And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud," Wait a minute, What have they been following?

"And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud," that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe you forever."

Wow. So, that they know God speaks audibly, and Moses is not just going up into this mountain and making stuff up. That is what He is saying. Which is so hard to understand, because I think a lot of us would feel if there was a pillar of a cloud right here, I would not have to tell you. "This is God, and He is speaking to me in this cloud." I would hope that is not the case, at least. Right? You would believe we have been following God. We follow Him every day. I get up and I see His cloud. "Surely He is the God that speaks to us." But, He is saying, "No, they are so hard of heart. They can be with me all of these days and still not believe who I am." You can get comfortable in the supernatural presence of God. That is the warning of this book of Exodus. That you can get so comfortable in the supernatural presence of God, that you cannot receive the next encounter.

Exodus 19:16-18

On the morning of the third day, there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of

the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire.

So, there is a cloud, and there is a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud. Now all of a sudden, the mountain is manifesting the glory of God in a new way, and it becomes a thick cloud. But, they see as it were, God come on it and into the cloud as a fire. Wow.

Habakkuk 3:3 ESV

“God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His splendor covered the heavens, and the Earth was full of his praise.”

That is the region in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. We think it is from the east. So, He came from where the sun would come up. They were seeing this cloud on the mountain, and they look over to Mount Paran and there is this blazing light coming from over the mountains to meet them.

So, read it again, “God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran.” Then they say, “Selah.”

This is one of the scariest things that the nation has ever seen. “God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran,” from the mountain next to Mount Sinai. “Selah,” or think about that for a while.

Then, “His splendor covered the Heavens and the Earth was full of His praise.”

Habbakuk 3:4-5 ESV

“His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from His hand, and there He veiled His power. Before Him went pestilence, and plague followed at His heels.”

The sin in their heart caused plagues to happen in their life. There was one plague that was about to happen. When they raised up a golden image and said, “This is our god,” after they had seen His image. Plague and fever followed, and they are trembling at what they remember after their first encounter with God, as God.

Habbakuk 3:6-7 ESV

“He stood and measured the Earth; He looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways. I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.”

The land of Midian is where Mount Sinai is. Habakkuk is in that moment seeing what they were seeing. He was recounting how it was told to him by his fathers of what happened when God came and showed up on Mount Sinai. “We saw as it were a ball of light coming from another mountain over the horizon, and on to Mount Sinai as fire and whichever way He looked it shook us to our core.” The Earth itself was trying to bow low at the sight of God coming down. Moses is saying, “Stand up here on the bottom on the mountain,” and they are shaking uncontrollably. Can you imagine?

Exodus 19:18-25 ESV

“Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.” Remember Habakkuk. “And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke,

and God answered him in thunder. The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord breakout against them. And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself, warned us, saying 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.' And the Lord said to him, "Go down and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them." So Moses went down to the people and told them.

When you read this account, it can be very confusing. God is concerned about the setup of a parameter. They had put a fence around the mountain, because He said, "Do not let them come up because they will die." Moses was called up, and God says, "Make sure you tell them, do not go past that fence." Moses says, "We already did that, they are not going to do it." God says, "Go and tell them." It is almost a very weird exchange, but we have no understanding of how holy the mountain had become in that moment. God's concern is so great for His people. They have such a polluted, unholy, unconsecrated heart, that if they get anywhere near the glory and holiness of God, it would burn and consume them right there.

We have no understanding of this, because we walk in such grace with Jesus. But, the holiness of God is a very fearful thing. It is a very real thing. We are thankful for Jesus, because He gives us His righteousness to stand. The blood of Jesus on the cross has taken that holy fire so that we do not have to feel it. In the presence of God, anything that is not of Him, sin, the naive sin, the unknown sin, the separation, and the consequence of sin, are consumed in His holy presence. Moses goes back down, and he tells them, "Do not cross the line, I already told you." He goes back up and God invites him to eat. It is just like our God. He wants to eat with you. He wants to have a holiday with you. His holidays are called feasts unto the Lord. He wants to eat with His family. At the end of the book of Revelation, one of the last letters that He writes saying, "I stand at the door and I knock. If anybody opens to me, I will come in and dine with Him. I will eat with Him." He is the same, "Yesterday, today and forever." He wants to eat. He wants to break bread with you. He wants to spend time and fellowship over a meal with you.

Exodus 24:1-11 ESV

Then He said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with Him. Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words. Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God

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of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.”

This is the moment when God came down and it was like a carpet would roll out in front of Him. The carpet was blue sapphire stone like the sky. Wherever He was walking, the sapphire stone would be building up in front of Him, so that He would not ever touch Earth. This is God, guys. They make movies today with this scene that has already happened. This is amazing. He didn't touch them. But, they sat at the table and ate and drank with God, the God of Israel. They met halfway up the mountain. There was a table prepared for them and they ate and drank with Him. They had an encounter with God, who they have been following. Now, they know, “He looks like me. He talks like me. He walks like me. He eats and drinks. He is not just a cloud, not just a fire. I am made in His image and likeness.” Wow!

In the New Testament book of Hebrews it says, if when the gospel came to us from angels, and we denied it, how much more so with the gospel that came from Jesus? What will happen if we deny it? What is He referencing? He is actually referencing this passage right here. The Jewish tradition tells us that God didn't come by Himself. He came with the escorts of sons of God, the archangels of Heaven. They brought the Gospel of how to live, the Book of the Covenant. It wasn't just God. It was God and His family from Heaven, Michael and Gabriel, the archangels. That is why they reference, “if we receive the gospel from the angels of Heaven with God, and we refused it,” in a couple chapters in Hebrews. How much more will happen, “if now we have received the grace from the Son of God Himself,” but refuse it? What will happen?

If you know the story in Exodus, you know what happens next. The sin of idolatry is in their heart, which God has obviously been very concerned about. He sees it in them. They just want to revel and party now that they have been freed from being slaves in Egypt. They want the revelry and partying of idolatry that happens. They want the sensuality of the Egyptian ways. He sees it in their heart. He keeps commanding them to not come up higher. I see what you really want to do, and it is not with me.

Exodus 24:12-18 ESV

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I might give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them. Then Moses went up on the mountain and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day, He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up to the mountain and up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain, forty days and forty nights, and Joshua was halfway down forty days and forty nights.”

So, Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Joshua was with him halfway. If you are keeping track, you have the bottom of the mountain where all the people are. Then they went up a certain place and there is a table. Seventy elders, with Moses and Aaron and their kids, eat with God. God invites Moses and Joshua up even higher. Moses and Joshua go up and just wait for six days in the cloud. They do not eat or drink for six days. They are just hanging out up there waiting. God is just waiting. Then on the seventh day, God says, “Okay, Moses, you come all the way up to the top where the raging inferno of a fire is. Joshua, you stay there. Moses went up, and in this time period, the people whose hearts are not with Him,

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are at the very bottom. They commit sin when they go and get gold, then they peer pressure Aaron to make them a bull. Okay, seventy of them have just eaten with God, the God. But, they raise a bull, and say, here is the god who took us out of Egypt. You can see the deception and you wonder how could this even happen? But, you can get comfortable in the presence of God. They could have looked right behind them and seen the fire on Mount Sinai, as they were dancing around the false image below. It doesn't make sense, but it happened and it does happen.

God is revealing Himself through multiple facets of glory. They never left His presence. You always have the promise of the Holy Spirit in your life. You always have the promise that there will be someone with you all day long, and somebody with you all night long. It is the Holy Ghost. He is with you, because He loves you, because He loves you, and just because He loves you. Even if you are faithless, He will be faithful. Even with this sin, God never left His people. Even though He was severely wounded and hurt by their actions toward Him, the cloud never left. That is the faithfulness of God's love and mercy. Even when He is grieved and hurt by our sins towards Him. He feels them, and you can read it in this account. He is angry, and He is upset, and He is hurt.

Moses is relaying this to the people and going back and forth, right? They lose 3000 of their men with a plague. They lose more because the Levites took swords and killed those that were in the orgy, in the drunkenness, and in the revelry. They could not even fight. They were so drunk. They were just killed by the Levites because of that. The Levites were chosen because they chose Him. That is why Levites are not counted in the censuses or as a tribe of Israel, because they were one with God. They chose God's side. It is interesting, and this is what it looks like.

After this sin, Moses intercedes and makes amends, and God forgives. But, they have to walk out the consequences of their sin for many, many years. God weeds out those areas of their hearts. Many of them perish, because they still won't let it go. But, God does something different.

He has manifested Himself in different ways. Right? He has manifested Himself as a pillar. He has manifested Himself as a thick cloud. God comes onto the mountain as fire and light, and He manifests Himself as one you can sit and eat with. You see the glory of the Lord is for you to encounter. But, He wants to show you a new way every day. We have been talking about the revelation of knowing the words, but encountering the revelatory word is different. The witness here, is that the people of God were called by His name Israel, "princes of God." But, they refused to go deeper than what they were comfortable with doing. God wants you to get uncomfortable. He wants to break down those walls to let you encounter and change your life forever. Moses still wants to meet with God even though God is upset with the people.

Exodus 33:7 ESV

"Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp."

Now this wasn't a permanent thing. We know that it was just during this time where God is really upset. He says, I cannot be among those people, or I am going to consume them. They are hurt. They say, God said He could not even stand us. He cannot even stand to be around us. If He is around us, He wants to just consume us and wipe us off the face of the Earth. So, they are upset. God is upset. Moses says, I still have to be with you. So, I am going to set up the tent way over there, God. Away from these people, because I have to be with you. That is what it looks like. He sets it up, so that He can go meet with God.

Exodus 33:8-11 ESV

“And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until He had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship God, each at his tent door. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.”

What we forget to mention is that Moses was up at the top over forty days and forty nights, but his friend, Joshua stayed in that halfway point and didn't go back down. Joshua stayed forty six days and nights, without food and water. Joshua was so “up in the glory,” that when Moses came down and runs into Joshua. Joshua says, “Sounds like there is war going on down there.” Moses says to Joshua, “That is not the sound of war, but it is the sound of revelry and dancing.” Joshua was like, “How can that even be, since we are in the presence of God.” His youth shows, but this is the same Joshua who was allowed to lead them into and conquer the promised land.

The people knew, there is God the pillar, and Moses is going to meet with God. So, they watch him go into the tent and shut the door. Then they look, and sure enough, God goes over and stands, “as if He is going to go get some coffee with Moses.” Because, Moses and God, talk to each other every day, “like at the water cooler.” That is the imagery that we get here. God talks as if He is talking to His friend, Moses.” The people were in awe.

This is a different encounter of the glory of God. Only two people that we can see in this Bible, went and took it. The rest said, “Moses, that is awesome that you have that relationship with God. I worship Him and I praise Him and I give Him glory. But, I am not interested in just going and seeing what that sounds like.” We can see our own hearts in this. But, there is more to it. He wants you to be Moses. He wants you to be Joshua. You can be this, because of the blood of Jesus. There is nothing that is keeping you from this encounter with God. *“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ.”* There is nothing that will separate you from the encounter that you want. The question is, “Do you want the encounter?” That is the only question left in the Bible. “Will my people have the encounter? Will I find faith on the Earth when I come back? Faith that can stand with God, forty six days and nights?

An interesting thing is that God was so upset at the people He just asked them to leave Mount Sinai. So, they moved the camp. This is why we see Moses set up his tent of meeting outside of it. But, then God says, “Now that they are set up over there, I want you to come back to Mount Sinai with me.” Moses goes back to Mount Sinai again and again, back up to the mountain. He is there for forty days and forty nights. This time the people wait for Him. This time the people stay in obedience and wait for God to come and show up. Moses met with God for eighty-six days, without food and water on the mountain. It's amazing. He has an encounter with God that you can have.

The children of Israel become restored. The glory of the Lord rests upon them so mightily and manifests upon them so much that their clothes and shoes never wore out for forty years. For forty years, they woke up every day and had bread and every night they picked up quail to eat for meat. They had water whenever they needed it. They were encountering the blessings of God. They were walking in the goodness of God in the land of the living, even if they didn't want to take that next encounter.

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God's goodness is so good and so lavish. "How marvelously He has lavished Himself on the children of God," it says in First John. He has lavished His love upon you and He will continue to lavish Himself on you. But, my job as a minister in the Lord, is to spur you on. There is more than just sitting in the lavish provision of God. There is more than just saying, "I have full health. I am filled. I am satisfied." There is more to the encounter, than the provision that you receive every day. The children of Israel were full with their daily bread. But, God says, there is more than just your daily bread. I am trying to spur you on. You can have it.

In the book of Numbers we read that the children of Israel got the tent of meeting back. It wasn't always outside. They were restored to the Lord. But, then they were being trained to become an army. God said, *"My glory will be in the midst of you, but you will camp around me, because I'm going to train your feet for war."* For forty years they camped and they broke camp as if they were an army on the move. These were slaves that God was transforming into His people and into His army. Teaching them His ways of discipline. Teaching them His ways of power and might. Teaching them His ways of provision, and His faithfulness.

Numbers 1:47 ESV

"But the Levites were not listed along with them by their ancestral tribe. For the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it, and shall camp around the tabernacle. When the tabernacle,' that is the tent of meeting that we have been talking about, 'is set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is pitched, the Levites shall set it up. If any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death. The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man to his own camp, and each man by his own standard,' that standard is like a banner or a flag. 'But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of testimony so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel.' So they were the mediators, they were the buffer of the glory of God. 'And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle the testimony. Thus did the people of Israel and they did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses.

Numbers 2:1-3

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, the people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard or banner with the banners of their father's houses, and they shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side. Those who camp on the east side towards the sunrise shall be of the standard of the camp of Judah, by their companies."

That is prophetic in nature. I want you to see, that God says, *"They are going to camp all around me, and I will be the glory in their midst again. They will be all around me. The Levites will be that outer ring of the glory. I want them to camp with their tents facing me."* He set them up *"three by three, three by three, three by three, three by three."* Isn't that interesting? He even tells them how to break camp. *"The east side, and on the south side, and the West side, and then the north side will break camp. You will do this when I leave."* They knew when to leave, because in the center of camp, the glory cloud would rise and move and lead them out. They would know it was time to break camp. They became this moving army forty years in the making.

There is an encounter of glory that is more. If you stay in the presence of God, you will be made into a warrior. If you stay in the presence of God and in the family of the King, you will be made into a warrior. But, there is a faster way than forty years. If you will go into that mountain

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and let Him break down those walls. He will give you those glory encounters that maybe you never know you could have. Amen.

Let's stand and pray and receive it. "Holy Ghost we do *receive*. We bless your word that the encounter with the glory of God is for us and for our children's children. You are gracious and merciful to a thousand generations. You are loving kindness and patience. You call us up to your mountain. You call us into your chambers. We ask that our soul cry and our hearts cry would always be, "Yes, Lord, here I come." Where we hesitate God, remove those hesitations. Remove those doubts. Remove the shame. Remove the guilt. Remove the unbelief and thoughts that, "He doesn't want me anymore." That is not true. God you are longing to draw near to us. You told us last week, "you are a moth to a flame," because you told us, "Our nearness is your good, as you have told us, your nearness is our good." You are calling us to a greater measure of being in your eyes. You are calling us to a greater measure of being in your presence. It is for those that say, "yes." We earnestly seek you, God. In Jesus' name, we bless our mamas today, and ask that they would be loved, that they would know they are loved, and that they would see the treasure they are in your eyes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.